

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 5 to 8, 10 to 12, 14 to 22, 25 to 27, and 29 to 46 remain pending. Claims 1, 13, and 23 have been cancelled.

Claims 35 and 37 to 42 remain withdrawn under 37 C.F.R. 1.142(b). Applicants respectfully request that withdrawn claims 35 and 37 to 42 be allowed since a generic claim, amended claim 15, upon which the withdrawn claims ultimately depend, has been re-written in independent form consonant with later remarks in the Action.

If withdrawn claims 35 and 37 to 42 are deemed allowable in view of the amended claim 15, correction of typographical errors in some of the withdrawn claims may be in order. In claims 38 to 40, the term "whererin" should be "wherein". In claim 37, "caraboxylate" should be "carboxylate". Correction by Examiner's amendment may be in order.

Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 8, 10 to 14, 16, 20 to 22, 27, 33, 34, 43, and 44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,145,604 to Neumiller (the Neumiller patent).

The rejection of claims 2, 3, 5 to 8, 10 to 12, 14, 16, 20 to 22, 27, 33, 34, 43, and 44 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is overcome. Amendments have been made to a number of the claims consonant with later remarks in the Action indicating that certain claims would be allowable if re-written in independent form.

The rejection of claims 1 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is moot since they have been cancelled.

Claims 15, 17 to 19, 23, 27, 29 to 32, and 45 to 48 have been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if re-written in independent form.

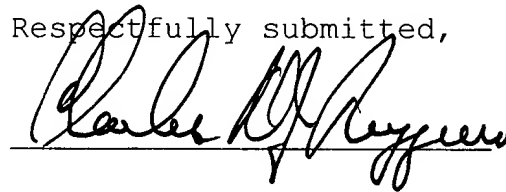
The objection to claims 15, 17 to 19, 27, 29 to 32, and 45 to 48 is traversed. Claims 15, 17, 20, 27, 31, and 32 have been re-written in independent form incorporating the appropriate limitations.

The objection to claim 23 is moot since it has been cancelled.

Reconsideration of claims 2, 3, 5 to 8, 10 to 12, 14 to 22, 25 to 27, and 29 to 46, including withdrawn claims 35 and 37 to 42, is deemed warranted in view of the foregoing, and allowance of said claims is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles N. J. Ruggiero", is written over a horizontal line.

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